

S/N 09/175,589

Docket No.: 12369.5US01

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13. An apparatus for managing electronic records on a in a distributed computing environment, the apparatus comprising:

a computer system comprising at least one processor and at least one memory, the computer system being adapted and arranged for:
creating an electronic tag that uniquely identifies an electronic records;
storing the electronic tag; and
distributing the electronic record after it is identified by the electronic tag.

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17. An article of manufacture for managing electronic records in a distributed computing environment, the article of manufacture comprising a computer-readable storage medium having a computer program embodied therein that causes the computer network to perform the steps of:

creating an electronic tag that uniquely identifies an electronic records;
storing the electronic tag; and
distributing the electronic record after it is identified by the electronic tag.

REMARKS

This Response is in reply to the Final Office Action dated July 2, 2001. For the reasons more fully outlined below and in the original specification, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims now pending are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

At paragraph 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,786,817 to Sakano, et al. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection. Sakano discloses a method and apparatus for setting the retention